

LOCAL GROUP CONTRIBUTES SERVICES FOR BRAILLE TRANSCRIPTIONS

Special Skill Requires Two Years Study & Certification from Library of Congress

Volunteer services for the blind are performed in many ways and by many people, but judging from the enthusiasm and dedication of one particularly outstanding group of nine Toledo women, braille transcription—the translating of printed material into braille—must hold a very special interest.

The enthusiasm of the group is immediately apparent to any visitor attending one of their weekly meetings and work sessions held in the library of the Collingwood Ave. Temple. Here you will find several of the members busily typing new manuscripts on braille



Mrs. Mervin Levey (left) and Mrs. Agnes Morris discuss the progress of braille translation of a child's book.

typewriters while others proofread work that has been done at home during the preceding week. It is during these work sessions that the more experienced members have the opportunity to help the less experienced master the many difficult skills required for this service work.

BOOKS RECEIVE NATIONAL CIRCULATION

Mrs. Mervin Levey, current chairman of the Collingwood Ave. Temple Sisterhood for Services to the Blind explains the group was organized five years ago as an affiliate of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and Jewish Braille Institute. Since that time, the Toledo group has transcribed literally hundreds of novels, children's books, magazine articles and text books now in circulation in libraries for the blind throughout the country—including, of course, our own Toledo Society for the Blind Library. Other organizations that now receive books from the Toledo Group are the Library of Congress, Iowa State Commission for the Blind and the Christian Record Braille Foundation of Lincoln, Nebraska.

LOCAL REQUESTS COME FIRST

The group also receives many local requests. "These," Mrs. Levey said, "receive first priority." She added that within just the last few months they have completed a hymn index for a blind Toledo minister, a social science text book for blind students in the Toledo Public Schools, and a set of government regulations requested by an employee of the State Welfare Department.



Left to Right: Mrs. Harry Bame, Mrs. Ben Lipson, Mrs. Fred Slavin (Sisterhood Vice President of Religion and Education Chairman), Mrs. Caroline Webb, Mrs. Agnes Morris, and Mrs. Mervin Levey.

A more unusual assignment required the preparation of braille "title cards" for a series of color slide photos of Africa. The photos are used by a blind lecturer representing the Laubach Society.

An example of the individual members dedication was illustrated recently by Mrs. Bertha Till, of Adrian, Michigan. Mrs. Till is on an extended vacation in Arizona visiting her son. Rather than delay completing her current braille writing assignment, her braille typewriter was one of the first items packed for her trip.

HIGH DEGREE OF TRAINING REQUIRED

Perhaps an even more revealing fact concerning the dedication of this group is that to accept a transcription assignment, a volunteer must first be certified by the Library of Congress. This certification, now held by Mrs. Levey, Mrs. Till, Mrs. Harry Bame, Mrs. Ben Lipson, Mrs. Agnes Morris, and Mrs. Bernard



Mrs. Caroline Webb, one of three Toledo women studying for certification by the Library of Congress, uses the stylus and guide to complete a braille study assignment.

Treuhaft, requires completion of a two year study course and submission to Washington, D. C. of a 35 page braille manuscript by each member. Three other women, Mrs. Robert Deutsch, Mrs. I. J. Newell, and Mrs. Caroline Webb are now studying for certification.

Membership in the volunteer braille group is not limited to members of the Sisterhood. The only requirement, Mrs. Levey emphasized, is a desire to learn and a great deal of time. Anyone interested in joining the work is most certainly welcome.

The Toledo Society For The Blind NEWS

A NEWS LETTER TO HELP YOU BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THIS RED FEATHER AGENCY

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CATARACT

shadows that need not be . . .

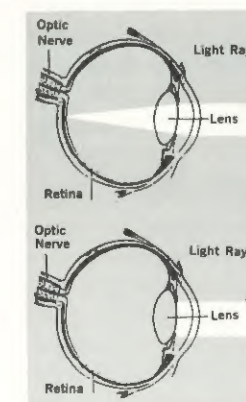
Cataracts are one of the most common, yet most feared and misunderstood, of all eye problems. This informative and revealing article prepared by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness relieves many of these fears and provides new hope and understanding for all.

Cataract is the greatest single cause of blindness among adults today. However, they can occur in any person at any age. Why they occur is still a medical mystery. They are sometimes found in a baby's eyes at birth. These are called congenital cataracts. Some are found in persons who have worked with or have been exposed to great heat. They have also been found in persons exposed to excessive radiation

or who have suffered a blow or injury to the eye. But most cataracts develop in the eyes of older people. These are called "senile cataracts."

Senile cataracts account for 17.2 percent of all blindness among persons 20 years of age or over in the United States. We have already seen an increase in blindness from cataracts in the past several decades due to an aging population. And with the advances made by medical science lengthening human lifespan, this disease will continue to be a major problem.

CATARACT: What it is . . . What it is not . . .



In the human eye, light rays pass through the clear lens and focus on the retina.

In the eye with a cataract, the light rays are blocked from reaching the retina by the clouded lens.

Cataract is the clouding of the lens within the eye that blocks the passage of the light rays needed for sight. The underlying cause of some types of cataracts is not yet fully known or understood by doctors. We do know, however, the effect it has on the vision of the person suffering from this eye disorder.

A physical change takes place in the lens resulting in the development of small opacities. These opaque areas may increase in number and size until the lens becomes completely clouded. The eye then has the appearance of having a white pupil and is often referred to as a "ripe" cataract. At this point the patient has lost all detailed vision and can usually only distinguish between light, dark and bright colors.

★ IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR 1966 CHRISTMAS CARDS

And just think how much your friends will enjoy receiving your message if you extend the Christmas spirit beyond the usual commercial greeting card.

Society for the Blind Christmas Cards need cost no more than you usually spend, yet they mean so very much to so very many people.

The money received from the sale of our cards is used for the Society's family activities—activities that cannot be budgeted into the support received from the United Appeal. These extra activities, which are vitally important to our total rehabilitation program, include the summer camp, family nights, help for blind bowlers, and Santa Claus' annual visit to our blind children.

Your order blank and samples of the cards are enclosed. All three cards are immediately available, with matching envelopes. You can order any number of cards you wish, either with or without an imprint of up to three lines. If you prefer, there is space for your signature and a personal message.

You will not be charged or invoiced for the cards. We only ask that you make a contribution to the Society for whatever amount you wish. Do remember, however, that any amount you send over what you normally would spend for Christmas Cards is tax deductible.

Can we count on you?

THE SIGN POST

BY
DOROTHEA LUMM MANN

It has been my good fortune in recent months to get a ride with a neighbor in the morning to a spot within three or four blocks of the Toledo Society for the Blind, and a desk they sometimes let me use. I like the short walk (I purposely walk leisurely) truly enjoying the out-of-doors in winter and in summer.

I've made "speaking friends" this way too, since it is not unusual to meet the same persons each morning who are also on their way to work. We say a



Dorothea Lumm Mann

pleasant "Good Morning" and sometimes even stop to chat a bit about the weather or whatever else might be of interest around us. I feel I really know these folks and find myself looking for them as I go on my way. They play a large part in getting my day off to a "good start."

In my short journey to the office, I cross two or three busy intersections and I confess that I always experience some misgivings about getting across safely. Honestly now, I haven't always been this fearful, but it seems the older I grow, the faster the cars go. I always feel a bit relieved when I find I've accomplished this "dangerous" feat once more.

I don't always cross alone, however. One of the folks I often see, doesn't see me, and he doesn't know that he often leads me across the street. He doesn't see the coming cars, but his ears are tuned to their direction, and when he knows the time is right, he holds up his white cane, crosses without hesitancy—and gets himself, AND me across safely!

Blindness a handicap? Yes, one could hardly deny that. But being handicapped in this way doesn't mean a stymied life, spent as a "shut in." Many such folks can and do lead richer, fuller and more useful lives than those of us who are blessed with our sight. Certainly this fact has been brought forcibly to my mind as I see the continuing success of the Society's self-reliance and rehabilitation programs. To know these wonderful people who have overcome their handicaps and to help those, in any small way we can, who still must make this difficult adjustment, can only be described as one of life's most rewarding experiences.

This newsletter is published twice annually by The Toledo Society for the Blind. Photos are by Robert Packo. Printing is through the courtesy of the Toledo Lions Club.

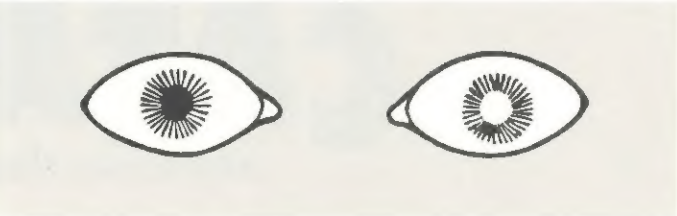


CATARACTS (con't)

We also know what a cataract is not. It is not an infection nor is it contagious. It cannot be spread as measles or the common cold. Furthermore, it is not a growth or another common misconception "skin growing over the eye."

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The most obvious sign and one more readily detected by the patient's doctor or companions than by the cataract victim himself is the milky grey or whitish spot that first appears in the black area of the eye called the pupil. Usually the cataract patient will not be aware or notice this change in the pupil himself.



Besides the physical change in the appearance of the eye there are other recognized symptoms of cataract:

- 1. Blurred vision is one of the first signs of trouble. The patient may complain that the light is not bright enough to read by; or find he must hold objects closer to his eye in order to see them.
 - 2. Double vision or spots may become noticeable as the cataract develops. He may not see lights clearly outlined but as if there were two or more. And in some cases he may see spots and experience loss of detail in areas of what he is looking at.
 - 3. A frequent change of eyeglasses may indicate the presence of a cataract near the center of the lens.
- Having any one or all of these signs or symptoms does not necessarily mean a person has cataracts. However, it is common sense that their presence indicates the need for a thorough eye examination.



CARE AND TREATMENT

There are no salves, pills, drops, magic potions or medications known today that will dissolve, absorb, retard or prevent the progress of cataract. Advice to use such preparations may delay receiving proper treatment until it is too late.

There is only one possible cure: surgery. While a delicate and serious operation, modern cataract surgery has been perfected to the point where it is safe and effective more than 95 times out of a hundred. Such odds certainly favor the patient. With the advances in surgical techniques, drugs, instruments and nursing care it is no longer neces-

sary to wait for any particular stage in the development of a cataract before surgery. By having them removed early, patients avoid unnecessary years of failing sight or loss of vision. With some types of cataract, damage can result if the operation is unduly delayed. Only an eye physician can best tell the time for cataract surgery. However, the decision to operate is usually made when the patient's vision is impaired to the point where it interferes with his normal activity.

Although cataract is the major cause of blindness among adults, it also holds the greatest promise for the restoration of useful vision for its victims. It has been said that there is no operation that has given so much happiness to so many people as has the removal of a cataract.

AFTER SURGERY

After surgery, which consists of removing the clouded lens, the eye can no longer focus. A substitution must be made to accommodate for this before vision is restored. When the operation has healed, the patient will be fitted with special cataract glasses. These must now do the work formerly done by the lens inside the eye.

At first the patient may be disappointed because of necessity the glasses are thick and may feel heavy and uncomfortable. Also they will find they do not see as well as in their pre-cataract days. Color and size of familiar objects are noticeably different and the thick lenses have a tendency to distort straight lines.

After a relatively short period of time the majority of cataract patients soon become adjusted to this new way of seeing and are once again able to conduct their normal day to day activities.



NOW HE'S PREPARED



Blind Boy Scout Jeff Zavac, 11, of 3020 Daleford Drive, uses his fingers to read the scout motto in part of the four-volume set of the Boy Scout handbook in braille, lent to him by the Toledo Society for the Blind. Looking on are John Goerlich, left, president of the Society and Frank Keating, scoutmaster of Troop 146 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Although the Toledo Society for the Blind is primarily concerned with the problems of the blind and visually handicapped, our programs are far from limited to these groups alone. The prevention of blindness is an equally important part of our work. Each year thousands of sighted adults, students, and even pre-school children participate in Society sponsored sight conservation and eye screen programs.

The following statistical summary, taken from our most recent annual report, illustrates the scope of our current activities.

I. Blind and Sight Conservation Clients

As of 12/31/65	960
As of 9/1/68	1022
Increase	62

II. Individual Interviews-Office, Homes, Rest Homes, Hospitals, etc.

By Professional Staff	700
By Volunteers	150

III. Sheltered Workshop (Furnishes training and employment for blind & visually handicapped)

Industrial Workers (average per month)	57
Home Industries Workers (Average per month)	25
Home Industry Deliveries	714
Home Industry & Chair Caning Customers	614

IV. Group Activities	Times	Attendance
"Save Your Sight" film showings	108	5,732
Color Slide Lecture	7	230
Talks and Demonstrations	12	489
Tours of facility	28	371
"Family Night" Programs	12	1,450
Parents-Toledo Blind Children	5	95
Other group activities, such as hobby clubs, swimming, bowling, outings, etc.	126	3,049
Camp Yukita	1 week	84
Vision Screening Training Courses	2	23
Preschool Vision Screening (continuous)		1,800
Total Attendance		13,323
Volunteer participation	979	(2,006 hrs.)

V. Other Services		
Talking Books in Service		642
Eye Exams & Glasses issued		80
White Canes issued		50
Radios issued		6
Publications monthly		
"GOIN'S ON" (schedule of Society activities, news of Blind Community, etc.)	Circ.	500
"Society News" (published twice a year for general community use)	Circ.	10,000